

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) ~~A method for energy consulting on the selection and implementation of energy generation systems components using volume pricing and forecasted demand aggregation, comprising the steps of:~~
 - ~~(a) collecting and storing, in a database, energy system component data, including volume pricing data, from a plurality of suppliers;~~
 - ~~(b) collecting and storing, in a database, energy demand data and site resource data from one individual customer and from a plurality of potential customers;~~
 - ~~(c) calculating and providing a proposed energy system configuration and proposed price for the purchase and installation of an energy generation system for the individual customer, which configuration and price are based upon (i) the type of system proposed to the individual customer, (ii) usage and climate data for the individual customer, (iii) the volume pricing data for the system components, and (iv) regulatory data appropriate to the customer's location;~~
 - ~~(d) receiving a commitment from the individual customer to purchase the energy system at the proposed price when an aggregate of customer commitments for the components used in the proposed system permits the volume pricing data to support the proposed price; and~~
 - ~~(e) arranging for the purchase and installation of the purchased energy system.~~

A computer- implemented method for facilitating the purchase of minimally-polluting energy generation equipment using volume pricing and purchase commitment aggregation, comprising the steps of:

(a) querying a plurality of manufacturers' databases to search for specification data and pricing data for minimally- polluting energy generation equipment;

(b) creating a computer database and collecting and storing in the computer database selected portions of the specification data and pricing data;

(c) determining at least one volume discount price level associated with at least one equipment demand level for minimally- polluting energy generation equipment available from at least one manufacturer;

(d) collecting and storing, in the computer database, energy usage data and site resource data from at least one customer;

(e) determining by computer, based on the energy usage data and the site resource data, the feasibility of minimally- polluting energy generation equipment for the customer;

(f) calculating by computer, using the equipment specification data, equipment pricing data, energy usage data, site resource data, volume discount price level and equipment demand level, a proposed configuration of minimally- polluting energy generation equipment and proposed price at the volume discount price level for the configuration for the customer;

(g) transforming by computer the equipment specification data, equipment pricing data, energy usage data, site resource data, volume discount price level and equipment demand level into a proposed equipment purchase contract, and providing the contract to the customer;

(h) receiving an executed equipment purchase contract from the customer, prior to the expenditure of funds to purchase equipment and pay for a site visit by an energy consultant, which contract becomes binding only if the aggregate number of a plurality of customers executing purchase contracts reaches a threshold level equal to or greater than the equipment demand level associated with the volume discount price level;

(i) aggregating the contracts executed by the plurality of customers to calculate an aggregate equipment demand level;

(j) notifying the customer when the aggregate equipment demand level reaches a level equal to or greater than the equipment demand level associated with the volume discount price level;

(k) purchasing the equipment; and

(l) installing the equipment.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, in which the site resource data comprise data on customer geographic location, orientation of structures, access to an electric power grid, availability of sunlight, availability of space for photovoltaic cells, availability of wind, availability of space for wind turbines, availability of hydrogen-based fuels, availability of space for fuel cells, applicable utility tariffs and applicable governmental regulations.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which each the energy generation ~~system equipment comprises~~ is based on at least one of the following technologies: photovoltaic, wind turbine, fuel cell, batteries, geothermal, passive solar, biomass, microturbines and micro-hydro systems.

7-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the energy demand usage data and site resource data is collected interactively from customers via an Internet Web site.

10-14 (canceled)

15. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1, in which arranging the purchase and installation of the purchased energy system includes automating the process of matching the customers are automatically matched with trained specialists, such as specifiers, installers, and ~~for~~ electricians.~~

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the costs of energy systems are reduced by organizing customers in the database or environmental organizations to advocate politically for regulatory changes, by automatically inviting customers to participate in lobbying activities designed to persuade their local government to enact incentives that will lower the price of energy generation systems for them, and to enact legislation to require their local utility to buy back, at the retail rate, energy generated without causing pollution.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the number of potential customers is increased by organizing customers in the database or environmental organizations to advocate politically for regulatory changes which reduce the cost of energy generation systems, by automatically inviting customers to participate in lobbying activities designed to persuade their local government to enact incentives that will lower the price of energy systems for them, and to enact legislation require their local utility to buy back, at the retail rate, energy generated without causing pollution.

19-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) ~~A computer-assisted system for energy consulting on the selection and implementation of energy generation systems components using volume pricing and forecasted demand aggregation, comprising:~~

~~—(a) an interface configured to collect and store, in a database, energy system component data, including volume pricing data, from a plurality of suppliers;~~
~~—(b) an interface configured to collect and store, in a database, energy demand data and site resource data from one individual customer and from a plurality of potential customers;~~
~~—(c) a computer implemented system for calculating and providing a proposed energy system configuration and proposed price for the purchase and installation of an energy generation system for the individual customer, which configuration and price are based upon (i) the type of system proposed to the individual customer, (ii) usage and climate data for the individual customer, (iii) the volume pricing data for the system components, and (iv) regulatory data appropriate to the customer's location;~~
~~—(d) a system for receiving a commitment from the individual customer to purchase the energy system at the proposed price when an aggregate of customer commitments for the components used in the proposed system permits the volume pricing data to support the proposed price; and~~
~~—(e) a system for arranging the purchase and installation of the purchased energy system.~~

A computer- implemented system for facilitating the purchase of minimally- polluting energy generation equipment using volume pricing and purchase commitment aggregation, comprising:

(a) a system for querying a plurality of manufacturers' databases to search for specification data and pricing data for minimally- polluting energy generation equipment;

(b) a computer database;

(c) a system for collecting and storing in the computer database selected portions of the specification data and pricing data;

(d) a system for determining at least one volume discount price level associated with at least one equipment demand level for minimally- polluting energy generation equipment available from at least one manufacturer;

(e) an interface configured to collect and store, in the computer database, energy usage data and site resource data from at least one customer;

(f) a system for determining by computer, based on the energy usage data and the site resource data, the feasibility of minimally- polluting energy generation equipment for the customer;

(g) a system for calculating by computer, using the equipment specification data, equipment pricing data, energy usage data, site resource data, volume discount price level and equipment demand level, a proposed configuration of minimally- polluting energy generation equipment and proposed price at the volume discount price level for the configuration for the customer;

(h) a system for transforming by computer the equipment specification data, equipment pricing data, energy usage data, site resource data, volume discount price level and equipment demand level into a proposed equipment purchase contract, and providing the contract to the customer;

(i) a system for receiving an executed equipment purchase contract from the customer, prior to the expenditure of funds to purchase equipment and pay for a site visit by an energy consultant, which contract becomes binding only if the aggregate number of a plurality of customers executing purchase contracts reaches a threshold level equal to or greater than the equipment demand level associated with the volume discount price level;

(j) a system for aggregating the contracts executed by the plurality of customers to calculate an aggregate equipment demand level;

(k) a system for notifying the customer when the aggregate equipment demand level reaches a level equal to or greater than the equipment demand level associated with the volume discount price level; and

(l) a system for arranging for the purchase and installation of the equipment.

24-25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, in which the site resource data ~~on-site resources~~ comprise data on customer geographic location, orientation of structures, access to an electric power grid, availability of sunlight, availability of space for photovoltaic cells, availability of wind, availability of space for wind turbines, availability of hydrogen-based fuels, availability of space for fuel cells, applicable utility tariffs and applicable governmental regulations.

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, in which ~~each~~ the energy generation system ~~equipment comprises~~ is based on at least one of the following technologies: photovoltaic, wind turbine, fuel cell, batteries, geothermal, passive solar, biomass, microturbines and micro-hydro systems.

29-30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, in which the interface ~~configured to collect energy usage data~~ comprises an interactive Internet Web site.

32-36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, in which the system for arranging the purchase and installation of the ~~purchased energy system~~ equipment includes means for automating the process of matching customers with trained ~~specialists, such as~~ specifiers, installers, and electricians.

38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, further including means for reducing the costs of energy systems, including means for organizing customers in the database or environmental organizations to advocate politically for regulatory changes, including means for automatically inviting customers to participate in lobbying activities designed to persuade their local government to enact incentives that will lower the price of energy systems for them, and to enact legislation require their local utility to buy back, at the retail rate, energy generated without causing pollution.

40. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, further including means for increasing the number of potential customers by organizing customers in the database or environmental organizations to advocate politically for regulatory changes which reduce the cost of energy systems, including means for automatically inviting customers to participate in lobbying activities designed to persuade their local government to enact incentives that will lower the price of energy systems for them, and to enact legislation require their local utility to buy back, at the retail rate, energy generated without causing pollution.

41-49. (canceled)